

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 34, 35, 38-45, 47-50, 52-55, and 58-63 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hakozaiki (U.S. Patent No. 6,234,845), rejected claims 36, 37, 46, 56, and 57 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hakozaiki in view of Horie (U.S. Patent No. 6,231,360). By this amendment, Applicants have amended claims 34 and 54, amended claim 51, and added new claim 64. Applicants respectfully traverse all rejections in the Office Action and request reconsideration and allowance of pending claims 34-64.

Amendments to the Claims

By this amendment, Applicants have amended claims 34 and 54 to recite a card connector with contact terminals each having "a base portion and an elastic deformation portion which elastically deforms" wherein "the base portion of the contact terminal is placed in the base plate, the elastic deformation portion of the contact terminal extends through the second space into the first space." Exemplary support for the amendments to claims 34 and 54 may be found at page 13, lines 14 through page 14, line 3 of the specification and in Figures 1, 2, and 4.

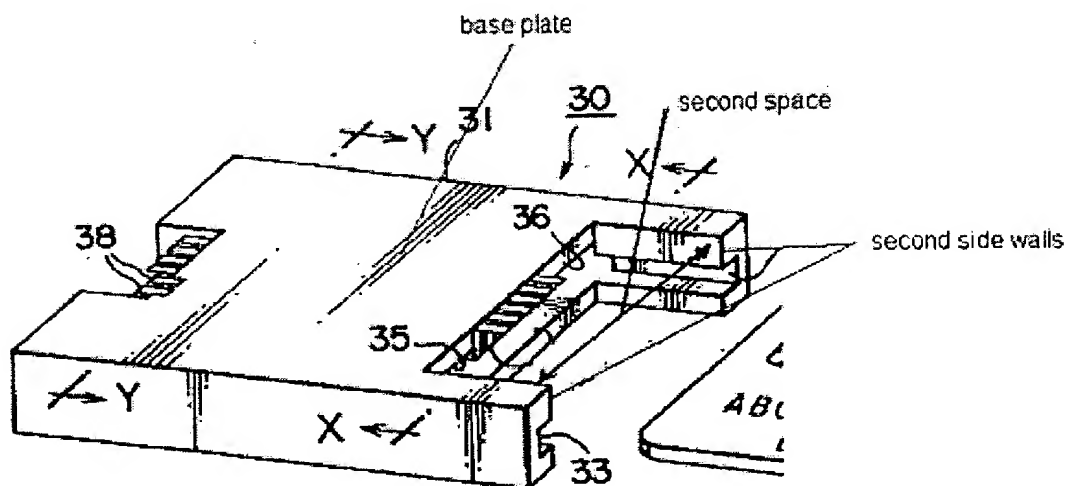
Applicants have amended claim 51 to enhance readability.

New claim 64 recites a card connector wherein "plural grooves are formed in the base plate of the connector, and the base portions of the contact terminals are placed in the grooves." The application supports new claim 64, for example, at page 13, lines 14 through page 14, line 3 of the specification and in Figures 1, 2, and 4.

Claims 34-64 are allowable over the applied references

As amended, claims 34 and 54 of the Application each recite a card connector including contact terminals arranged on a base plate, where “the base portion of the contact terminal is placed in the base plate, the elastic deformation portion of the contact terminal extends through the second space into the first space,” the second space is “defined by the second side walls ... the second space being between the first space and the base plate,” and “no portion of the base plate extends into the second space.” The applied references fail to disclose this combination of features.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner argues that Figure 1 of Hakozaiki discloses a second space defined by alleged second side walls and that the second space is “between the first space and the base plate (as seen from the front in a vertical direction, see Fig. 3).” (Final Office Action at 3.) The Office Action includes an annotated version of Figure 1 of Hakozaiki, reproduced below, illustrating the alleged second space on which the Examiner relies.



Hakozaiki Figure 1 (As Annotated by Examiner)

As illustrated, for example, in this figure, Hakoziaki does not disclose contact terminals having a base portion “placed in the base plate” and an elastic deformation portion that “extends through the second space into the first space.”(See Hakoziaki at Figs. 1 and 3.) Any elastic deformation portion of contact pin array 37 does not extend through the alleged second space and into the alleged first space.

Hakoziaki describes a “contact pin array 37 including pins formed resiliently ... provided in the connector body 31 as to project into the IC card receiving port 32. ” (Hakoziaki, Col. 5, l. 47-50.) Hakoziaki further explains that a “mount for the contact pin array 37 is disposed between the grooves 35 and 36 and has a large thickness for ensuring a sufficient mechanical strength.” (Hakoziaki, Col. 5, l. 50-53; Fig. 3.) Hakoziaki does not, however, disclose a contact terminal with an elastic deformation portion that extends a second space into a first space, as required by the amended claims.

Horie does not teach or suggest the claimed second space and base plate, and the Examiner does not rely on Horie for such teachings. Horie, consequently, fails to overcome the above-noted deficiencies of Hakoziaki.

Because the Hakoziaki and Horie, taken alone or together, do not teach or suggest all elements of claims 34 and 54, these claims are allowable over the applied references. Claims 35-33 and 55-64 are allowable at least due to their respective dependence from claims 34 and 54.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that the claimed invention is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against

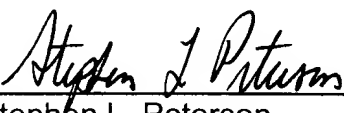
this application. Applicants therefore request reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

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By: 
Stephen L. Peterson
Registration No. 26,325